Claims:

1.   A method for distributing software comprising:

providing a software application on a hardware device by a manufacturer of said software application, wherein said software application is executable on said hardware device;

distributing said hardware device; and

providing a continued service for said software application, wherein said hardware device is adapted to provide said continued service via a communication link between said hardware device and said manufacturer.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing the continued service is performed by a third party service provider.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing said software application in accordance with at least one of a software feature, a hardware configuration and a packaging material.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing said software application in accordance with a service level.

5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising said service level providing a fee rate in accordance with a level of end user usage.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising said hardware device providing a connection from said at least one end user's computer to said hardware device through at least one of a power line, a local area network, a wireless connection, and a direct connection.

7.   The method of claim 6, further comprising said hardware device providing a connection for insertion of said hardware device into a backplane.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising enclosing said hardware device within an enclosure, thereby preventing an unauthorized downloading of said software application from said hardware device.

9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising enclosing said hardware device within an enclosure, thereby preventing an unauthorized uploading of software to said hardware device.

10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising enclosing said hardware device within an enclosure, thereby preventing unauthorized altering of the configuration of said application specific hardware device.

11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising said hardware device providing a locking feature which requires a key to unlock said software application.

12.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
       accessing said hardware device by at least one of a web browser and an access software provided by said software manufacturer.

13.   The method of claim 12, further comprising downloading said access software from said software manufacturer or from said hardware device.

14.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
       configuring said application software for access in conjunction with a web service.

15.   The method of claim 1, further comprising said hardware device providing said software manufacturer with limited access to end user information on said hardware device.

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16. A method for utilizing software comprising:

purchasing a software application with a selectable service level of a continued service;

receiving said software application on a hardware device, wherein said software is executable on said hardware device; and

receiving said continuing service from a software manufacturer of said software application in accordance with said selectable service level.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising said hardware device providing said software manufacturer with limited access to end user information on said hardware device.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said purchasing step comprises purchasing said software in accordance with at least one of a requested software feature and a user selected service level.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising including in said user selected service level a fee rate in accordance with a level of end user usage.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

utilizing a key to unlock said software application.

21. The method of claim 16, further comprising;

accessing said software application via at least one of a web browser and an access software provided by said software manufacturer.

22. The method of claim 16, further comprising downloading said software from said software manufacturer or from said hardware device.

23. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

utilizing said software application in conjunction with a web service.

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24.   A system for using software applications comprising:

an end user computer;

at least one hardware device having a software application executable in said hardware device, wherein said hardware device is provided by a manufacturer of said software application; and

a network adapted to connect said at least one hardware device to said end user computer.

25.   The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a backplane adapted to receive said at least one hardware device, wherein said backplane is coupled to said end user computer via said network connection.

26.   The system of claim 24, wherein the software application is provided with a selectable service level of a continued service offered by said software manufacturer.